

Beth Smith RPhT

OCP# 619858

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pride that I put my name forward for election as the Hospital Pharmacy Technician Representative running in District TH.

In the past 10 years the role of the Hospital Pharmacy Technician has changed in ways we could not have imagined. With these changes comes a new responsibility towards our patients and our public. It is my hope that I will be able to ensure that all hospital technicians receive strong, relevant education and training, allowing them to confidently embrace their ever expanding scope of practice, and allowing our patients and our public to be confident that they are receiving the best care possible from our pharmacy teams.

WHO AM I?

I am the Coordinator of Pharmacy and Automation Systems at Health Sciences North (Ramsey Lake Health Centre) in Sudbury Ontario. I began working in hospital in 2013, and became a Registered Pharmacy Technician in 2015. During that time I have had the privilege to sit on several multidisciplinary committees within our hospital setting, including MAIT: our Medication Administration Improvement Team, PHA-Mir: our Pharmacy Medication Incident Review committee and NEON Pha: our Northeastern Ontario Network pharmacy committee for Meditech superusers. Within our pharmacy department I sit on several working groups and I Chair our Narcotic Working Group. I have a true passion for process improvement, and I spend a great deal of time working with my fellow technicians, pharmacists and other members of the medical care team to improve the various systems of medication delivery throughout our hospital. A true believer in ongoing education, I have been a preceptor for pharmacy technicians for two years and I constantly strive to provide relevant, challenging Structured Practical Training opportunities within the hospital setting.

WHO AM I, CONTINUED:

During my time away from pharmacy I have the pleasure of being a Serving Member of the Order of St. John. A long-time volunteer medical first responder, I now Chair the Community Services Committee for Northeastern Ontario, and act as Vice Chair for the St. John Ambulance Northeastern Ontario Board of Directors. My volunteer work with this organization fuels my passion for process improvement and community support services.

WHERE DO I STAND?

The scope of practice for pharmacy technicians has changed dramatically in a relatively short period of time. We are now in a position within the healthcare community that allows us to step up and take a more active role as we serve and protect the public. Integral to these new responsibilities is the need for strong, standardized and focused education for hospital technicians. I truly feel that the best way to protect our patients is to provide the best possible educational opportunities for all our pharmacy assistants who are beginning their journey to registration, and ongoing education opportunities for all hospital technicians.

IN CONCLUSION:

Although I have not had the chance to meet all of you, I welcome the opportunity to speak to anyone who would like to reach out with comments, questions or concerns. I would be so honoured to have the opportunity to serve the people of Ontario as the elected representative of District TH.

I sincerely hope you will consider my name when you vote in the upcoming election.

Thank you so much,

Best Regards,

Beth Smith RPhT
